

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 00263 140956Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 H-01

/054 W

-----141008Z 039979 /21

P 140925Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2257

CONFIDENTIAL TAIPEI 263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, TW, US

SUBJECT: INQUIRY ABOUT REPORTED POLITICAL PRISONER CHAN CHUNG-HSIUNG

REF: STATE 5984

1. SINCE EMBASSY HAS ALMOST NO INFORMATION ON FILE REGARDING CHAN CHUNG-HSIUNG (6124/6850/7160), WE HAVE ASKED MOFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHARLES KING (CHIN SHU-CHI) TO PROVIDE US, ON DEPARTMENT'S BEHALF, WITH RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL. WHAT LITTLE INFORMATION WE DO HAVE ON CHAN SUGGESTS THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE 1970-71 BOMBING INCIDENTS ASSOCIATED WITH HSIEH TSUNG-MIN. CHAN ALLEGEDLY WAS THE PERSON WHO PLANTED A BOMB IN BANK OF AMERICAN, TAIPEI.

2. ALMOST SIMULTANEOUS TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL, EMBASSY (CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER) RECEIVED A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM JAMES P. LEWIS, WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE DETROIT CHAPTER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI), FOR INFORMATION ON CHAN SIMILAR TO THAT REQUESTED REFTEL. IN ADDITION, LEWIS HAS ASKED FOR ADVICE ON WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT WOULD TRANSMIT A LETTER TO CHAN FROM AI.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 00263 140956Z

3. WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR UNSYMPATHETIC TO LEWIS'S REQUEST BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE WOULD NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION TO EITHER AMNESTY OR THE GROC THAT THE EMBASSY IS ACTING AS A MIDDLEMAN FOR AI. GROC'S RECORD OF RESPONDING TO OUR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON POLITICAL PRISONERS HAS IMPROVED OVER PAST YEAR AND WE BELIEVE THIS HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES ON

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. GROC OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD
EMBOFFS THAT THE GROC VIEWS AI AS INIMICAL TO THE ROC;
AND SHOULD WE APPEAR TO BE ACTING AS AI'S MIDDLEMAN IN
CHAN'S CASE, MOFA MAY IN THE FUTURE BE LESS FORTHCOMING.

4. MOREOVER, GIVEN THE LEVEL OF USG INTEREST IN HUMAN
RIGHTS, WE BELIEVE THERE IS WISDOM IN DEPARTMENT'S
(RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL EMBASSIES') COORDINATING
SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE TO AI INQUIRIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
ACCORDINGLY, WE PROPOSE TO LIMIT OUR REPLY TO: A) INFORMING
LEWIS THAT WE HAVE NO RELIABLE INFORMATION ON CHAN;
B) TELLING HIM THAT ANY INFORMATION THE EMBASSY OBTAINS ON
POLITICAL PRISONERS IS NORMALLY TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT;
AND C) SUGGESTING THAT IN THE FUTURE LEWIS DIRECT HIS
QUERIES ON POLITICAL PRISONERS TO THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH
COORDINATES USG EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
(ASSUMING THAT MOFA DOES NOT REQUEST CONFIDENTIALLY
WHEN IT PROVIDES INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA 1 REFTEL,
WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO DEPARTMENT'S RELEASING
THIS INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO AI INQUIRIES.)

5. WITH REGARD TO LEWIS'S INQUIRY ON WHETHER THE
DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND A LETTER TO CHAN
FROM AI, WE PLAN TO MAKE NO RESPONSE BEYOND REFERRING
HIM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON PROPOSED HANDLING
OF LEWIS LETTER ASAP.

UNGER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TAIPEI 00263 140956Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TAIPEI00263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770014-0622
Format: TEL
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770149/aaaabqxh.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7c2571d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 5984
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3590195
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INQUIRY ABOUT REPORTED POLITICAL PRISONER CHAN CHUNG- HSIUNG
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, TW, US, (CHAN CHUNG-HSIUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c2571d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009